

Martin P. Paulson, M.B.A., M.S. Chief County Assessment Officer 18 North County Street – 7th Floor Waukegan, IL 60085-4335 Telephone: 847-377-2050

Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption Outreach Sessions

The Chief County Assessment Office and the Lake County Township Assessors Association will hold several public outreach sessions to assist residents in completing the 2015 Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Application for taxes payable in 2016; as well as service taxpayer needs on other homestead exemptions offered. Residents will work one on one with a staff member to complete the necessary exemption forms.

Qualifications are:

- 65 years old or older during the tax year
- Own the property as your principal residence for the last two Jan. 1st (2014 and 2015)
- 2014 total household income is \$55,000 or less

Be prepared to bring copies of income received such as:

- 2014 Federal Income Tax Form
- Social Security Statement (SSA-1099)

If the property is owned in Trust, you may need to provide proof of the beneficiary.

March 16th, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Foss Park District Community Center 1730 S. Lewis Ave.

North Chicago, Illinois 60064

March 30th, 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Antioch Senior Center 817 Holbeck Ave. Antioch, Illinois 60002

April 9th, 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Vernon Hills Village Hall Senior Center 290 Evergreen Drive Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

April 17th, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The Regent Center 1200 Regent Drive Mundelein, Illinois 60060

May 1st, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Patty Turner Center 375 Elm Street Deerfield, Illinois 60015

Outreach Locations

March 18th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Park Place 414 South Lewis Ave. Waukegan, Illinois 60085

April 7th, 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Lake Villa Township West (Formerly Gavin School) 37850 North Route 59 Lake Villa, Illinois 60046

April 13th, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Village of Lake Zurich – Barn (Paulus Park) 200 South Rand Road Lake Zurich, Illinois 60047

April 20th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Libertyville Civic Center 135 W. Church Street Libertyville, Illinois 60048

May 4th, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Round Lake Area Park District Senior Center 814 Hart Road Round Lake, Illinois 60073

March 25th, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Recreation Center of Highland Park 1207 Park Ave West Highland Park, Illinois 60035

April 9th, 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m.

Zion Park District 2600 Emmaus Zion, Illinois 60099

April 16th, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Fox Lake Lakefront Park 71 Nippersink Fox Lake, Illinois 60020

April 21st, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Grayslake Park District 240 Commerce Drive Grayslake, Illinois 60030

May 13th, 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Dickinson Hall Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center 100 East Old Mill Road Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

Staff will also answer questions and take applications for: ▶ Disabled Person

➤ Disabled Veteran

► Senior Citizens Homestead

► Returning Veterans

If you are unable to attend a session, you can also visit your local Township Assessor's office for assistance.

Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze Homestead Exemption

FINAL FILING DATE: July 1, 2015

The Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze applies to single-family residences. The residence must be owner-occupied (primary residence) as of January 1, <u>2014</u> and January 1, <u>2015</u> by someone who is at least 65 years of age in 2015. **This form must be filed every year in order to retain this exemption.**

The Senior Freeze Exemption does:

- Freeze the taxable value of your property
- Stabilize property taxes in an *increasing* market

The Senior Freeze Exemption does NOT:

- Freeze your tax bill
- Freeze the tax rate in your area

How is the Exemption Amount calculated?

The exemption amount is calculated by subtracting the base year assessment (based on initial application) from the current year assessment. The difference is the amount of the exemption. The base value will change to the current value if lower than the base year value for future calculations.

Is There An Income Requirement?

Yes, Maximum of \$55,000 Household Income (Combined for All Persons Living in the Residence for 2014). Please refer to the enclosed form for what is and is not considered income. Please note that all income from annuities is included as income.

Do You Need To Submit Proof of Income or Any Further Documentation?

No additional information is required to be submitted, other than the form itself. The Chief County Assessment office may require further information upon application review. If the property is owned in trust, we may require proof of the beneficiary of the trust. The form must be <u>filled out fully</u>, <u>signed</u> and <u>notarized</u>. Most township offices and the Chief County Assessment office offer the service of a notary public to senior residents for no fee.

What if I Qualify One Year and Do Not Qualify the Next Year?

If you qualified for this exemption in any given year, but in a subsequent year were above the income requirement and did not qualify, you will not continue to receive the exemption but the base year value remains in effect in the event that you qualify for the exemption again (as long as you remain in the home). A form will continue to be sent to you each year. If you qualified last year but not this year, and would like to avoid a reminder mailing in the fall, please contact us.

Please note that if you do not qualify for the Senior Assessment Freeze, you will still qualify for the Senior Homestead Exemption.

Other questions

Power of Attorney – If you have signed the form as a power of attorney, we will need to verify this information. **Trust ownership** – If the property is owned in a trust, we will need to verify the current living beneficiary of the trust.

Where Do I Send My Completed Forms?
Chief County Assessment Office
18 North County Street - 7th Floor
Waukegan, IL 60085-4335
Telephone: (847) 377-2050 or (847) 377-2100

See Reverse Side for Information on our Senior Outreach Centers